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IS YOUR TOWN INVESTING IN THE AMERICAN OF TO-MORROW?

By H. GRACE FRANKLIN, R.N.

Director Women's Charity Association School for Mothers, El Paso, Texas
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AFTER working six months in El Paso I realized that we had a condition to face peculiar to that city, and unless something was done to insure the baby a square deal, El Paso would always have a South Side made up of a foreign population.

I was told that but five American babies had died last year against 319 Mexican babies, and this convinced me that it was not the climate or El Paso, that it must be due to the ignorance of the Mexican and the conditions under which he lived. I appeared before the Woman's Charity Association, April 6, and urged them to take up this work, and the women took hold with a vim. There was no money in the treasury to carry on the work, therefore Mrs. H. D. Slater was appointed chairman of a committee to raise funds, and with the assistance of Mrs. Horace B. Stevens and the support of the *El Paso Herald* the funds were raised and the work started May 1, 1910.

El Paso has been loyal in her support, she has believed in the company and subscribed generously to the stock. Her dividends have been great in the lives of innocent babies, sick children restored to health, homes improved, and many mothers made happier because the little offspring, for which so much had been endured, is alive and there is not written after its name on a death certificate "still-born"; and best of all, five and one-half months' work has been carried out with the amount of money raised for a four months' campaign, and no appeal has gone uncared for. The city and county have been most loyal in their support, not only with money but in many ways. It is a great satisfaction to work and feel you have the co-operation of the health department and the county officials.

The Woman's Charity Association maintains two distinct departments: the Relief Department and the Woman's Charity Association School for Mothers. It is with the Woman's Charity Association School for Mothers I wish to deal.

This school for mothers maintains nine distinct departments: the exhibit, the baby clinic, class for mothers, sewing class, fresh-air department, milk depot, ice depot, prophylactic club, and field nursing from the Children's Dispensary.

The Exhibit.—This consists of home-made hammocks, beds, refriger-

erators, baby clothing, bottles, nipples, etc., just what to use and what not to use. This exhibit is open from 8 A.M. until 5 P.M., and any mother may be sent here to learn what she should use for her baby. Often in making visits to homes, a baby is found lying on the floor or sleeping in the bed with several people, food may be kept in an unclean place, and the milk may sour because there is no proper place to keep it. At once the woman is sent to the exhibit to learn just how to care for these different things.

Baby Clinic.—The baby clinic is under the care of Dr. W. C. Kluttz, a specialist in children's diseases, and is held at the El Paso County Dispensary. Here the babies are examined, treatment ordered, and close supervision kept over them. Dr. Kluttz's success has been wonderful, for the babies come to us when they are so ill that it seems impossible to save them, and yet our mortality is low. The doctor also sees the feeding cases at the dispensary, and the mothers report, with the babies, weekly.

Classes for Mothers.—The mothers are taught how to bathe the baby, how to give sponge baths, to make mustard paste, give irrigations, prepare the food for bottle-fed babies, etc., in fact they are instructed how to properly care for their children.

Sewing Class.—This is for the mothers of the South Side and they meet once a week and are taught how to sew, also how to dress their children. A night gown is an unknown article on the South Side, but our mothers are being taught the use of it. The school for mothers furnishes everything, the mother makes the garment and it is hers to take home when completed. They bring their younger children with them to the club-room, and after the sewing is through for the afternoon, they are served with milk and crackers. As three-fifths of the mothers are nursing young babies you can see the wisdom in this.

Fresh-air Department.—Once each week from twenty to thirty-five children are taken for a car ride to some suburban point.

Milk Depot.—Clean, raw milk is given to nursing mothers, anæmic and very sick children, and to bottle-fed babies.

Ice Depot.—Free ice is dispensed to keep the milk fresh and sweet; it is also given out where needed to the very sick. Distilled water is also dispensed. This ice and water are donated by the Consumer's Ice Company and have been of the greatest aid in helping to reduce infant mortality.

Field Nursing.—A nurse is sent from the dispensary into the home, to see that the mother understands the doctor's order and carries it out correctly. In this way many lives are saved, and by visiting the homes many new cases are found and are referred to the proper relief source.

Prophylactic Club.—The members of this club are boys and girls between the ages of eight and twelve. They are children from the South Side and from our poorest homes. It is wonderful to see them improve under the influence of clean surroundings and clean suggestions. They are organized for a purpose. Motto: a clean mind, a clean body, and a clean El Paso. Object: improving living conditions on the South Side. Colors: green and white. A prize is offered to the child having the cleanest head, the cleanest body, the cleanest home, and to the one making the greatest effort to improve his or her condition. A prize is also offered to the child reporting the most unsanitary place. They are taught personal and home hygiene. Each member is given a toothbrush and powder and taught how to use it. I firmly believe that if you wish to improve a race or to improve living conditions you should begin with the children and better results will be obtained. Stimulate good citizenship in the child and you will have a clean city.

Quoting Dr. Henry Van Dyke: "What are you going to do, my brother-men, for this higher side of human life? What contributions are you going to make of your strength, your influence, your money, your self, to make a cleaner, fuller, happier, larger, nobler life possible for some of your fellowmen?"

Is your town investing in the American of to-morrow? ¹

**INVESTIGATION MADE BY MISS GERTRUDE BARNES,
A VISITING NURSE, FOR A COMMITTEE ON PRE-
VENTION, OF SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING THE
INTEREST OF THE BLIND, CLEVELAND, OHIO**

IN making this report to you it is not necessary to review the history of midwifery or point out the many reasons for its existence, but rather to bring before you some of the methods and circumstances under which it is being practised in our own city. A little explanation of how the midwives' names were obtained and how their histories were taken may make clearer what follows. We are indebted to the Board of Health for its list of registered and unregistered midwives, to Dr. Hammond for another list, and to several of the visiting nurses as well as to the midwives themselves.

Each midwife was called upon in her own home, and unless she was there, no history was taken. Her own statement as to her nationality, ability to read and write, and general care of her patient was accepted.

¹ An interesting statistical report is omitted from lack of space.—ED.